

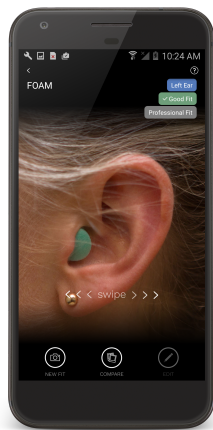


News Releases

New App for Military Hearing Conservation Programs Launched

Released: 1/2/2017

From NSMRL Public Affairs



This image was provided by Sensimetrics and is a screenshot from the WHHIP app

GROTON, CT - Have questions about your hearing test? Want to know what causes tinnitus? Are you using earplugs correctly? There's an app for that! The Warfighter's Hearing Health Instructional Primer (WHHIP) app was launched November 30th, 2016 by the Sensimetrics Corporation, in collaboration with the Naval Submarine Medical Research Laboratory (NSMRL), with funding from the Office of Naval Research (ONR).

The WHHIP is a supplemental tool for military hearing conservation programs and can be accessed by the warfighter from a personal mobile phone. The WHHIP is the first step in the transition process for the Military Hearing Preservation (MHP) Training Kit, which was an NSMRL effort spearheaded by Dr. Lynne Marshall, now retired, to provide engaging and motivational education and training material on military hearing conservation. Currently led by Dr. Paul Weathersby, the WHHIP places this technology in the hands of the warfighter.

Similar to the MHP Training Kit, the WHHIP aims to instruct the warfighter on best hearing health practices. To do so, the WHHIP includes four sections: learn, demos, hearing protection devices (HPD) check, and glossary. The learn and glossary sections let the warfighter scroll through various topics related to hearing conservation – including descriptions of noise and results of hearing tests. The learn section also includes videos and auditory demonstrations.

More demonstrations can be found in the demo section, where the warfighter can explore the difficulties that hearing loss and tinnitus, which is the hearing of sound when no sound is present, pose to sound identification and discrimination, as well as to speech understanding. The HPD check feature allows the warfighter to take a photo of the fit of the HPD in his/her own ears, and then compare the image to a standard image of a professionally well fitted device.

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Currently, the WHHIP app is only available for Android devices, but plans are in the works for creating a version for Apple iOS devices. The app is a free download in the Google Play store – just scan the QR code to add it to your phone, or search in the Google Play Store.



ASTMH 2016

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About US
Leadership
FAQs

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NHRC
NSMRL
NAMRU-D
NAMRU-SA
NMRC-Asia
NAMRU-3
NAMRU-6

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Working With Us
Partnerships
Research Services
Naval Research
Business Contacts

News
News & Media
News Releases
Fact Sheets
Newsletters
Media Inquiries

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Research Areas

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